

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Amended) A portable folding room dividing partition comprising,
 - a plurality of articulated panels,
 - vertical hinges connected between the panels,
 - two of the panels located at the ends of the partition comprise carrier panels to stabilize and impart movement to the remaining panels as the partition is expanded or collapsed,
 - each of the carrier panels having a vertical end frame member with a horizontal spread end foot ~~with wheels~~ at the lower end thereof with wheels thereon,
 - a duplex mount rigidly connecting the spread end foot to a bottom end of each carrier panel and at right angles thereto, said duplex mount having a part thereof connected to a carrier panel and a part thereof connected to the spread end foot,
 - a pull handle that is spaced apart from the spread end foot and connected to the vertical end frame member ~~and aligned in alignment with the plane of the carrier panel~~ and above a center portion of ~~over~~ each spread end foot and,
 - a plurality of inactive intermediate panels with wheels connected by means of said hinges to one another and to the carrier panels to define said partition,
 - such that movement of the carrier panels by a person gripping the pull handles acts to spread or collapse the inactive panels while providing support ~~therefore~~ that helps prevent the partition from tipping.
2. (Original) The portable folding room partition of claim 1 wherein each pull handle is a vertically disposed U-shaped handle member that is aligned in the plane of the carrier

panel to which it is attached and extends outwardly therefrom, such that a pulling force applied to the handle to expand the partition is aligned in the plane of the panel and at right angles to the plane of the spread end foot positioned therebelow.

3. (Original) The portable folding room partition of claim 1 wherein each carrier panel has 4 wheels including a pair of wheels on the spread end foot in alignment beneath the plane of the end frame member and another pair of wheels on a second horizontal spread foot that is spaced centrally from the spread end foot such that the carrier panels aid in preventing the partition from tipping to one side as it is being moved.
4. (Original) The partition of claim 1 wherein the hinges are formed from strips of flexible resinous material having parallel edges secured between the adjacent panels of the partition and positioned alternately on opposite sides thereof.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 8 ~~wherein the 1~~ including a bridging element which is provided with an internal retaining member[s] that ~~are~~ is slideably ~~connected to a frame member~~ mounted within a slot at the top of each panel.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~16~~ 4 wherein each panel includes a core surrounded by vertically disposed side frame members, horizontally disposed top and bottom frame members and all such frame members have the same cross-sectional configuration including outwardly opening slots with the edges of the strips held in vertical slots and a bridging member ~~is movably connected to the panels~~ slideably mounted within horizontal slots for holding the panels in alignment.

20. (Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 16 wherein~~ A portable folding room dividing partition comprising,

a plurality of articulated panels,

vertical hinges connected between the panels,

each of the panels including a central core formed from sheet material, a pair of horizontally disposed top and bottom frame members, vertically disposed side frame members along each side of each panel and,

at least the vertical frame members having a pair of laterally spaced apart sidewalls and an end wall and having outwardly opening longitudinally extending slots between the end wall and each of the sidewalls,

hinges are formed from strips of flexible plastic material connected between the slots on the same side of adjacent panels to allow the partitions to articulate relative to one another and,

the panels have wheels and are connected to one another by means of said hinges and to the carrier panels to define said partition.

at least one panel at one end of the partition includes,

a horizontally disposed laterally extending spread end foot with caster wheels at the end thereof,

the spread end foot is connected to a longitudinally extending bottom frame member by a duplex mounting plate having laterally extending arms that are aligned over the spread end foot and are rigidly connected thereto and a pair of longitudinally extending arms.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein a longitudinal plate is sandwiched between the longitudinal arms and the bottom frame member.

22. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein ~~at least one panel at one end of the partition includes,~~

~~a horizontally disposed laterally extending spread end foot with caster~~ the wheels at the end ~~thereof~~ of the spread end foot are caster wheels mounted for pivotal movement and,

~~the spread end foot is connected to a longitudinally extending bottom frame member by a duplex mounting plate having~~ has laterally extending arms that are aligned over the spread end foot and are rigidly connected thereto and ~~a pair of~~ at least one longitudinally extending arm[s] connected to a carrier panel.

23. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein a longitudinal plate is sandwiched between ~~the~~ a longitudinal arm[s] and ~~the~~ a bottom frame member of a carrier panel.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the duplex mount has lateral wings connected to the spread end foot and longitudinal arms that are connected to the bottom end of a carrier panel.